

## CARLO BOMBA DIES

Last week saw the passing of Italian walker Carlo Bomba. While he was not a major player on the world walking scene, he was one of those many people who give their lives so completely to the sport that they become legends themselves.

It was in Alberto Sordi's 1951 movie "Mamma mia che impressione" that he first came to prominence as a character who participates in a foot race in an effort to woo a beautiful woman. The following YouTube video shows the fun of the final moments of the race, with Carlo walking side by side with a group of actual walkers from sports team ACLI: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=00COHqMZS28>. It was one of several files he made with Sordi and he always played the part of a walker.

Born September 13, 1921, he died on December 11<sup>th</sup> 2012, aged 91 years. His style of walking was certainly not classical but he never complained if disqualified and he showed a lifelong love of the sport. Indeed he never married, prompting people to say he was in fact married to the sport itself!

For half a century it was common to see his small and dynamic figure at the start of Italian walking races. His only big wins were in the Castel Gandolfo in 1956 and four regional titles, but he often made the podium in the Castel Gandolfo, in the Tour of Rome and in other classics. In 1953 and 1954 he made the Italian national team in Italy vs Switzerland matches.

It was as a veteran that he did his best walking, collecting seven World Veteran titles and eight Europeans Masters titles. In 1987, at 66 years years of age, he set three M65 World Records - 25:31.5 for 5000m and 48:41 for 10,000m and 1:48:32 for the 20km, times that are still impressive today. His last major races were in 2007 when he competed in the World Masters Championships in Riccione, racing in the M85 5000m track walk and 10km road walk.

We remember a walking legend.



**Carlo Bomba competes in the 2007 World Masters champs in Riccione, Italy**  
(Photo from <http://www.atleticanet.it/master/news/27067-ci-lascia-carletto-bomba.html>)

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